



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Our mission is to create a Jewish home where all feel welcome;
come as you are and know that you belong.

Our house is a home where we...

- come when we need to, as well as when we simply want to
- respect the teachings of our ancestors and the merits of our own wisdom
- work towards greater inclusion across race, sexuality, gender and ability spectra
- share in seasonal rituals and season-of-life events
- view our diversity of thought as a strength and not a liability
- prompt thoughtfulness and reflection across an array of educational offerings
- embrace and love our little ones (even when they're running around) and our elderly relatives (even when they're moving slowly)
- feel the comfort and security of true intergenerational connections
- bring and share our humanity with each other
- have thought-provoking conversations and often agree to disagree
- explore any and all aspects of Judaism

Priorities

The following six congregation priorities arose from work done by the Strategic Planning Committee in 2021-2022. These six mission points guide the work we do as a congregation.

Kehillah Kedosha (*Sacred Community*): Community & Connections

We provide quality opportunities for all partners of our congregation to interact while building stronger bonds with each other and throughout the community.

Tefillah & Ruach (*Prayer & Spirit*): Worship & Spirituality

We recognize that our Jewish traditions have deep historic roots which form the stable foundation of our practice today. We also affirm that evolving forms of spirituality can deepen our connection to Judaism and to each other.

Torat Hayim (*Living Torah*): Lifelong Learning

We are committed to ongoing learning and the study of Torah. We value intellectual depth, breadth, and rigor in a Jewish education for every stage of life.

Cheshbon HaNefesh (*Thoughtfulness*): Taking Stock of Who We Are

As the needs of our congregation and the Jewish community change, we are committed to listening, assessing, and learning from our experiences to make each partner's journey meaningful and relevant.

Tikkun Olam & Tzedakah (*Repairing the World*): Justice

We believe in purposeful action and thoughtful giving based on Jewish ethics. We are committed to the healing of our world at local, national and global levels.

Sukkat Shalom (*Shelter of Peace*): A Safe Place

We are committed to welcoming all who seek to learn about and participate in Jewish life to our Bet Haverim (House of Friends), and to creating a haven for diverse thought, experience, and relationships.

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Executive Committee Report

Rob Egel, Liz Bader-Natal, Steve Fineberg, Steven Folb, Laurie Stillman & Eric Crane

The 2024-25 year has been one of extraordinary challenges for Congregation Bet Haverim. Despite significant changes in leadership, ongoing tensions related to antisemitism in our world, diverse perspectives on Israel, and limited resources, our community has demonstrated remarkable resilience. As we pledged at the beginning of this year, we have strived to build a community where people are seen, held, and heard—and while our journey continues, we believe we have made meaningful progress toward that vision.

We want to first acknowledge the tremendous efforts of our Board members, committee chairs and partners, and our dedicated professional staff who have worked tirelessly through these challenges.

Leadership and Governance

At the beginning of this year, we established a new governance model with a six-person Executive Committee replacing the traditional single-president structure. This team consisted of Rob Egel as Acting President, Steven Folb focusing on governance, Laurie Stillman focusing on partnership, Liz Bader-Natal, Acting Executive Vice President focusing on development and communication, Stephen Fineberg focusing on finance, and Eric Crane focusing on grounds, security, and sustainability.

This distributed leadership model has proven essential to the sustainability of our board. By sharing responsibilities across six individuals, we've been able to provide more comprehensive support to our congregation and community. We plan to continue with a similar structure next year, as we've found it creates a more sustainable volunteer leadership model—one that allows more voices to be heard and more partners to be seen and valued for their contributions.

Strategic Focus

The Board began the year with a concerted effort to establish a strategic plan. Through two offsite retreats, we identified key areas of focus:

- Governance improvements
- Operational stability and Campus enhancements
- Building connections between partners

The Board quickly established working groups for each of these areas, allowing us to make progress despite the year's challenges. Throughout this work, we've been guided by our "North Star": creating a community where people are seen, held, and heard. This vision has informed our decision-making and priorities throughout the year.

Supporting Our Rabbis

A significant portion of our Board's attention was devoted to addressing challenges facing our rabbis due to their separation and pending divorce. Beginning in November with their six-week leave, the Executive Committee and Board stepped in to ensure programs, religious events, and day-to-day synagogue operations continued as normal. While the rabbis were on leave, the Board worked to support the rabbis during this difficult time and worked with the rabbis to develop a plan and schedule for them to carry out their rabbinic responsibilities when they returned from leave.

Following their leave, we shifted our focus to supporting the rabbis as they and we determined the future of rabbinic leadership at CBH. With sadness, and after careful consideration and mutual discussion, Rabbi Wohlner and the Board agreed to end her rabbinic tenure at CBH, due to the Rabbis' pending divorce. The Board also focused on establishing support systems for Rabbi Simons' continued work at CBH and helping him to be successful as our solo rabbi. We are deeply grateful to all who helped navigate this complex transition.

High Holidays

Our High Holidays were extremely successful in terms of attendance and contribution. However, it's important to acknowledge the impact of the Rosh Hashanah sermon focused on Israel. This sermon highlighted clear areas of disagreement among congregants and exposed tensions that had previously been overlooked. Following this, much of the Board's focus shifted to supporting our rabbis and repairing relationships within our community.

Continued Strength and Progress

Despite the challenges, CBH continues to thrive. We were thrilled to promote Wendy Hayworth from Interim Executive Director to Executive Director early this year. After stepping in following William's tragic passing last year, Wendy has established herself as a willing, capable, and highly talented leader.

We've also made significant progress on security enhancements. The long-planned and grant-funded security gate was installed, along with physical barriers to help protect our campus. We've hosted several successful community events, including:

- The first annual Hanukkah artisan fair, featuring artists from within CBH and beyond
- The third annual Purim bingo night and spiel
- A festive and sold-out community Passover Seder

Financial Sustainability

This year, we made the difficult but necessary decision to raise our annual dues to better align with the actual operational costs of our organization. Last year's report highlighted a significant structural deficit, and this adjustment helps address that ongoing challenge.

We are pleased to report that our community responded with understanding and generosity. As we shared at the beginning of the year, your response to our request for increased voluntary dues was remarkable. You stepped up, demonstrating your commitment to our shared future. We were very successful in bringing in the pledges needed to support our operations, demonstrating the deep commitment of our partners to CBH's future. For this, we are deeply grateful.

Looking Forward

As we move forward, we remain committed to the vision we shared at the beginning of this year. We want CBH to be a place where:

- *People are seen*: Each partner feels recognized and valued for who they are
- *People are held*: We support each other when life presents challenges
- *People are heard*: Every voice matters, whether new to our community or a long-time member

To fully realize this vision, we must continue addressing the structural challenges identified in last year's report. The distributed leadership model has proven effective, but we must remain vigilant about:

- Maintaining our physical campus
- Strengthening community bonds
- Supporting our professional staff
- Building on our improved financial foundation

In the spirit of reflection that defines this time in our calendar, we acknowledge that there are ways in which we, as a board, have fallen short this year. There were times when we didn't communicate as clearly as we should have, or when decisions, despite our best intentions, missed the mark. We are learning and growing too, constantly striving to better serve this community that we all hold dear.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve this community during such a challenging time. We are continually inspired by the dedication and resilience of our community. With continued care, commitment, and partnership, we believe CBH will emerge stronger from these challenges.

Sincerely,

CBH Executive Committee

Report From the Executive Director

Wendy Haworth

My new position has provided an opportunity to collaborate with staff, lay leaders, and volunteers in support of the Bet Haverim community this year. I have an appreciation for the complexity of coordination behind every service and program offered here that would not be possible without the commitment from partners and dedicated staff.

I want to thank the staff, especially Ardyth Sokoler, Jennifer Heath, Janice Rich, Sharon Vigil, and Rian Rivera, for their perseverance and grace throughout a year that held as many challenging and heartbreaking moments as highlights. We said an unanticipated goodbye to Rabbi Wohlner and continued on with the solo leadership of Rabbi Simons.

The calendar was packed from Purim to Passover. Spring was filled with events sponsored by CBH groups and committees and a string of Bet Mitzvah celebrations has kept the synagogue humming.

With all the scheduled activity, maintaining the facilities and keeping the technology functioning has been an ongoing challenge. I have been building relationships with plumbers, technicians and handymen through frequent contact. I would like to thank Elisabeth Dubin for her counsel and expertise on building and grounds, and I've enjoyed the ongoing collaboration with the Security Committee and the Sustainability Task Force throughout the year. I am very grateful to Steve Cohan, the volunteer project manager who oversaw the Solar Panel Installation and Security Fence construction last summer.

To avoid duplicate information, my report on maintenance and facility updates only includes information not covered in other reports.

HVAC: Heat Pumps and Updates

Two energy efficient electric Heat Pumps were installed, replacing the old failing AC and gas heater units on the North and South sides of the Sanctuary at the end of a scorching summer.

Six Ecobee Smart Thermostats for Admin, Sanctuary and Social Hall were installed in July allowing for efficient use of heating and cooling and important system updates via email notifications.

Social Hall Heat Pump Water Heater

The installation of the energy efficient electric Heat Pump Water Heater was completed in March. Hot water is available in the Social Hall for the first time since Covid hit in 2020.

Social Hall Door Repair

The front door hardware was replaced with Von Duprin crash bars and pins, the best available on the market for high use doors. The threshold was ground down to obtain an

improved locking connection. The wooden doors will continue to shrink and swell, with changes in weather requiring seasonal adjustments.

Social Hall Roof Repair Completed

The water-damaged wood was removed from the end of the main roof beam and surrounding area in the Southeast corner of the Social Hall. All was repaired and replaced. The gutters were sealed to prevent future damage.

Landscaping

The new Redwood Grove irrigation system was installed, and the old irrigation timer was replaced. In preparation for the High Holidays, the sidewalks were ground down, eliminating tripping hazards, and the curbs and handicap parking repainted.

The Sewer

The sewer lines were hydro jetted to break up root intrusions. Last June, the main line was repaired in the center of the Redwood Grove and a new cleanout installed for easier access. This year, the tertiary sewer line serving the Social Hall women's restroom sink was the root intrusion trouble spot.

Ner Tamid (Eternal Light Cover) Repaired

A local metalsmith welded and repaired the beautiful bronze cover for the eternal light that hangs in the Sanctuary. The light continued to glow while the repair was under way.

Jewish Database: Transition to Easyshul

Sharon Vigil managed the data transfer from Rakefet to Easyshul last July. EasyShul is an evolving database under development. The Pastoral Care module was recently added at the request of Rabbi Simons.

VOIP Phones Installed

The landlines were replaced by the new VOIP phones. VoIP phones utilize the internet connection to carry voice data; voicemails are converted to email, and staff may use a mobile app to access work-related calls on their cell phones, providing significant flexibility.

Annual Budget & Financial Management

Repair and maintenance is but one piece of the larger, complex CBH Budget. Facility projects can fall into one of four budget categories (classes) including Facility Operations, Department of Homeland Security Grants, Capital Repair & Replacement, and Capital Improvements. Without the expertise of the Finance Committee, CBH would not have the reserves that allow for continued maintenance of the buildings and grounds, operation reserves, and a balanced budget. I am grateful to Steve Fineberg and the Finance Committee who guide financial decisions, and I cannot thank Amy Abramson enough for her leadership throughout the budget season.

Rabbis' Message

Rabbi Jeremy Simons

Shalom Haverim,

At last year's annual meeting, none of us could have imagined how the world, and our community, would change. I recognize we have a diversity of views within our community, but there is one thing we have in common: this has been a hard year for all of us.

Those were the opening sentences of the report I, along with Rabbi Wohlner, submitted last year. While this year the particular changes in our world and community are different, the sentiment remains just as true.

Starting with the world outside our synagogue walls, we have seen a shift in politics unprecedented in our country's history. I have listened to the fears and anxieties expressed by so many Partners who worry about their civil rights, economic security, and the wellbeing of their families, friends, and neighbors. Within our congregation we have people whose decades-long careers were ended with an email. We have many more who are wondering when their email will arrive. We have had Bet Mitzvah with family members missing because they were denied visas. And the list goes on.

In times like these, people turn to their spiritual communities for support and rely on them as a source of stability amidst the chaos. I recognize that CBH did not feel stable for much of the last year. As I've shared numerous times over the last few months, we cannot succeed in moving forward without acknowledging the reality of where we have been. Rabbi Wohlner had an outsized impact in her two and a half years and I know her sudden departure has been, and continues to be, painful for many.

And yet, despite the challenges, I have experienced some of the most powerful moments of my career during these last 12 months. Below are some that stand out to me:

- We began the year with a dedication for our new solar panels, which happened thanks to the work of committed organizers and generous donors. In addition to their environmental and financial benefits, for the coming decades the panels will remind us that we can do big things.
- We welcomed multiple new Partners this year, some who rejoined years after their membership lapsed. Based on the regular inquiries I receive, I expect this trend to continue.
- By the time you read this, we will have welcomed eight new Jews into our community. This group has studied together for over a year and CBH is blessed to count them as Partners.
- We have had 10 Bet Mitzvah, with two more this summer along with two Celebrations of Learning. Despite the changes in personnel, all ceremonies were held as scheduled and all students received proper training. Thank you to our tutors, Karen Goldstein and Chani Oppenheim, for their time and dedication, and also to

Rabbi Wolfe for his assistance in officiation. Finally, thank you to all our Bet Mitzvah families: this year was more complicated than any of you were expecting and I recognize it was not easy for you.

- Our Social Hall was filled to capacity when our Social Justice Committee invited the larger Yolo County community to an event where we could learn how to best support our (documented and undocumented) immigrant communities.
- Over the last few months, I have called all approximately 300 Partners and Associate Partners. These conversations have changed my understanding of this community and where I see it going (more on that below).
- In May we held our Israel Listening Circle program, which allowed participants to share what they were thinking and feeling. I have heard positive feedback from Partners with varied perspectives on Israel and hope to hold similar conversations in the future.
- Our monthly Coffee & Conversation group continues to increase in popularity, with more than 20 regular attendees.
- The CBH Board of Trustees, and particularly the Executive Committee, performed heroically under extraordinary circumstances. This synagogue would not be where it is without this group of people giving so much of themselves. They, along with their family members, deserve a thank you from all of us.
- Personally, I have begun working with a Rabbinic Coach as I transition from co- to solo rabbi so that I can give this congregation the quality of rabbinic leadership it deserves.

Looking to the year ahead, my priority is to provide and ensure the stability we all need. I am excited to unveil a number of new programs over the coming months, however our core functions—religious worship, education, lifecycle, and pastoral support—will remain consistent. I would like to share a few specifics about what to expect in the next year:

- Dan Nichols will continue to serve as our High Holy Day musician for Erev Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, with Rebecca Plack leading music for the daytime services. Rabbis David Aladjem and Cyn Hoffman will again lead the Traditional Services.
- I will continue to devote time toward personal outreach. My goal is to have one scheduled meeting with every Partner (this will be a multi-year project).
- I recognize an intense desire for people to find deeper connections with Jewish community. At a recent program I overheard one Partner say to another “I’ve known you for years, but I learned so many things about you tonight that I never knew.” Look for a number of opportunities in the coming year to (re)connect with fellow Partners.
- Along with our staff and Board, I am working to streamline our Bet Mitzvah process with the goal of making the experience as easy and enjoyable as possible for children and parents alike.

I want to conclude with a few notes of appreciation. Thank you to our Board for putting in far more volunteer hours than they had expected and for responding to these challenges by

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stepping up rather than stepping back. Thank you to our staff for going above and beyond to serve our Partners. Finally, thank you to the community for giving me the space I needed, offering countless notes of support, and offering grace and forgiveness. As I've said before, while I'd never choose to go through the last year again, I will be forever grateful that it happened here at CBH.

I end this year with confidence that I will need a new opening sentence for next year's report.

In Gratitude and Partnership,

Rabbi Jeremy Simons

Gan Haverim Director's Report

Jennifer Heath, Preschool Director

As we close out the 2024 school year and approach the 2025 school year at Gan Haverim, I find myself filled with both pride and gratitude. Reflecting on the past year, I am deeply moved by how far we have come by the dedication, resilience, and care that have shaped our classrooms, our curriculum, and our community.

This year, we worked intentionally to align our learning environments with the heart of our mission: to meet each child as an individual, honoring their unique path of growth and discovery. With thoughtful planning and a deep commitment to our shared vision, we have cultivated spaces that nurture curiosity, confidence, and connection.

It has been a true joy to spend time in our classrooms to witness firsthand the development of our students and the meaningful relationships formed along the way. The transformation from where we began to where we are now is nothing short of inspiring. While challenges inevitably arose, they were met with creativity, collaboration, and the dedication of our team. Our dedicated staff shows up every day and works hard to operate a high-quality program.

As we look ahead, I carry with me a deep sense of fulfillment and excitement for what is to come:

Safety Highlights

- All staff are trained in emergency procedures, ensuring quick and informed responses in a variety of situations.
- Monthly fire drills are conducted with students to promote readiness and calm in the event of a real emergency.
- Our safety backpacks have been restocked and upgraded with essential materials to better support emergency preparedness.
- Shelter-in-place food boxes have been updated in both the Sunshine and Redwood classrooms to ensure adequate supplies.
- Routine facility inspections are conducted to identify areas needing repair or attention. Any issues are promptly addressed to Wendy, who ensures that a maintenance professional is dispatched quickly.
- The preschool entrance gate continues to be an effective security measure, contributing to a safer and more controlled environment.
- Staff report a greater sense of security and peace of mind, with fewer incidents requiring calls to the non-emergency line.

Current Staffing

- We currently have a dedicated team of four teachers: two in the Redwood classroom and two in the Sunshine classroom.
- To accommodate an expected increase in enrollment for summer camp, I will be hiring a part-time, temporary staff member to work from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

- As we look ahead to the next school year, we are planning for potential staffing adjustments. Given our current enrollment numbers, I have opted to hire a temporary staff member who will also serve as a substitute when needed.
- Additionally, the temporary staff member will be considered for rehire in the fall to support the team, especially since one of our Redwood teachers will be on leave for her pregnancy.

Enrollment Update

- Current school-wide enrollment stands at 29 students, with 17 in the Redwood classroom and 12 in the Sunshine classroom.
- Beginning in June, we plan to add six summer camp students to our enrollment, along with one new student joining the Sunshine classroom.
- We also have a new student scheduled to enroll in the Sunshine classroom in October.
- As is typical, we start the year with a lower enrollment but anticipate increases in the coming months as families continue to seek care and enrollment options.
- The recent change in TK eligibility, which now allows children as young as four years old, has had an impact on our enrollment numbers.
- Transitional Kindergarten (TK) in the Davis Joint Unified School District (DJUSD) is a free, public educational program designed as a bridge between preschool and kindergarten. It provides children with an additional year to develop the academic, social, and emotional skills necessary for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Eligibility for the 2024–25 School Year

- For the 2024–25 school year, children who will turn 4 years old between September 2, 2023, and June 2, 2024, are eligible to enroll in TK. This aligns with California's phased expansion of TK, which aims to make the program universally available to all 4-year-olds by the 2025–26 school year.

Parent Outreach

- We continue to engage our families with weekly newsletters sent via email, keeping them informed about upcoming events, important updates, and school news.
- The Brightwheel messaging feature provides parents with real time updates, including photos and documentation of their child's daily activities and progress.
- Invitations for special Jewish holiday celebrations are sent to parents, offering them the opportunity to visit the classroom, participate in activities, and experience the vibrant learning environment we have cultivated at Gan Haverim.

Enrollment and Tours

- I had the pleasure of conducting several tours and am excited to welcome two new students for this upcoming fall.
- We remain hopeful that more prospective families will reach out as we continue to share the unique offerings of Gan Haverim with our community.

Community Outreach

- We continue to collaborate with Lori from Davis Farm to School, a retired director from Peregrine, who generously shares her expertise in gardening and provides valuable insights and advice for our programs.
- Our partnership with the Davis Public Library remains strong, with library staff visiting once a month to read to students and engage them in fun activities across both the Sunshine and Redwood classrooms.
- This year, we had the pleasure of offering an introductory dance class with Emily, who graciously donated her time to teach the children. Additionally, our *Music Together* program with Karen continues to be a beloved and longstanding staple here.
- I also participated in the Davis Activity Fair, where we had the opportunity to promote our summer programs and connect with prospective families.
- To increase awareness, we have created a banner announcing that we are now enrolling preschool students, which will be displayed outside our fence to attract new families and spark interest in our offerings.
- To further connect with the broader community, particularly for our summer camps, I have reached out to local volunteers and organizations in Davis to enhance our special event weeks, making them even more engaging and memorable for our students.

Licensing Update

- I attended a licensing workshop where I had the opportunity to meet with an analyst and discuss the possibility of lowering our age group to better align with the needs of our program.
- As a result of this conversation, I am exploring the option of applying for a new license to accommodate this change.
- The process of obtaining this new license can vary in duration, depending on the efficiency of the Licensing Program Analysts (LPAs), but I am hopeful that we can move forward smoothly.

Upgrades

- This year, we have invested in new outdoor equipment designed to support the developmental needs of each child.
- We've expanded dramatic play opportunities with the addition of individual wooden houses and sensory water play structures, fostering creativity and hands-on exploration.
- In response to the need for sun safety, we have also introduced tables with umbrellas, providing shade and a comfortable outdoor space for the children to enjoy.
- The outdoor classroom is just as important as the indoor space, and we are committed to offering the same diverse opportunities for growth and learning in both environments. The children are thrilled with these new additions, and we are excited to see how they enhance their play and development.

Upcoming Plans

- We are excited to embark on our second year of summer camp, and we have great confidence that it will continue to thrive and provide enriching experiences for all participants.
- We are also looking forward to celebrating Jewish holidays with our community, offering outreach opportunities, and creating fun and engaging opportunities for our families.
- On a personal note, I am continuing my education and working toward an administrative certification in Early Childhood Development. This ongoing learning has been instrumental in enhancing my ability to manage staff, implement best practices, and continually improve our program to benefit the children in our care.

Report from the Director of Education & Youth

Ardyth Sokoler, Director of Education

Education & Youth Programs are proud to have crossed the finish line with another successful year of vibrant moments of learning and community building. For the first time in many years, we did not have our usual influx of new students but did maintain strong overall enrollment due to our successful retention. Our Sunday School program ended the year with 101 students enrolled and our Hebrew School program ended the year with 44 students. Our teen programs remain impressively strong with 21 teens in our DRTY youth group, 12 in Keshet and Confirmation, and 20 participating in our Madrichim leadership training program. **We are very proud that almost all our eighth-grade students are continuing to participate in our teen programs with more than half of them participating in at least two of our offerings.**

A very special thank you to our dedicated teachers, madrichim, and teen program staff for their dedication and hard work. Our teaching staff reflects a diverse group of professional educators, community members, parents, and enthusiastic college students. **The longevity of our staff retention has grown tremendously, and we now have seven teachers who have taught at CBH for at least five years; this represents more than 50% of our teaching staff.** Many of our college students have now been with us for the majority of their time at UC Davis. This consistency in staffing translates into strong relationships with students and parents as well as outstanding teaching and learning.

During this year, **I was able to engage in deep professional development and learning as I completed a Fellowship Program through the Spertus Institute in Chicago.** In completing my Leadership Certificate in Combating Antisemitism, I learned and collaborated with a cohort of rabbis, other Jewish educators, and Jewish communal workers to deepen our understanding and strengthen our ability to lead and educate during this challenging and transformative time in our Jewish communities.

Some of the **curriculum highlights** from this year include the integration of a new curriculum in our Preschool Class called *Let There Be Play: Bringing the Bible to Life with Young Children*. Our three-and four-year-old students have enjoyed exploring Bible stories through stories, art, play, and science experiments. In our kindergarten and first grade class, our students learn Hebrew using alef bet yoga, music and movement sessions with Ardyth, and innovative materials from Lee Laa Lou publisher. You will often find these children discussing Jewish values and how they can implement them at home or dressed in costumes acting out the stories from Sefer Breisheet (Genesis) or Sefer Exodus (Shemot). In second grade, Hebrew learning deepens as letters are reviewed, vowels are introduced, and simple reading begins. In addition, our students learn about Israeli artists including Hanoah Piven, Yizkchok Mouly, and Jordana Klein then have the opportunity to emulate their artistic styles in original creations. Our third-grade class enjoys traveling around Israel learning about various cities through STEM related innovations. Recently, they learned about Jerusalem through robotic medical inventions created in Israel including the Pillcam, WatchPAT, Emergency Bandage, ReWalk, and Exablate. These students then

worked in groups to create their own medical innovations to provide protection from infectious diseases. Our fourth-grade students were introduced to Jewish Prophets and the importance, both historically and now, of social action and justice. In their Judaism and food unit, students had the opportunity to volunteer twice at Grace Garden and prepare traditional Israeli food for Yom HaAtzmaut. For our fifth-grade students, one of their favorite moments this year was a program learning wisdom from our elders as special guests from CBH and University Retirement Center spent time with them during a special program. Students had the opportunity to talk with our elders learning about their Jewish experiences, gathering wisdom, and enjoying their company. Our sixth-grade curriculum focuses on Israel as well as an introduction to the Holocaust, using a literature-based approach and reading *Four Perfect Pebbles*. We were very appreciative of the opportunity to have Darien Shanske and his mom Sara join the class to share their family's Holocaust experience story. In seventh grade, our students selected medicine, focusing on equity and accessibility, as the focus for their Tzedakah Project this year. As part of their curriculum, students participate in Jewish text study of potential topics, learn about the work of nonprofit organizations, and send requests for proposals to organizations doing work in their selected focus area. This year the students received a record five proposals and had presentations from Achon Uganda Children's Fund, Women's Wellness Center, United Hatzalah, IsrAID, and Yolo Crisis Nursery. In Keshet, our learning this year focused on better understanding the complexities of Israel using the On The Map curriculum, following current events related to the hostage release and prisoner exchange negotiations, and exploring the history of antisemitism using a variety of curriculum materials.

This year also brought the celebration of twelve delightful bet mitzvah services! We are very proud of these hard-working students and their families. We also want to acknowledge Karen Goldstein and Chani Oppenheim, our two incredibly dedicated bet mitzvah tutors. In many ways, with the changes in our rabbinic leadership, this was a challenging year for these students, parents, and tutors. We would like to acknowledge the support of the Education & Youth Committee, Chani and Karen, and Suzanne Nitzkin who helped to organize monthly meetings for the parents to strengthen community and support these students.

One of our most joyful accomplishments this year was another amazingly successful Purim Carnival with over 130 children in attendance and strong support from teens, parents, grandparents, and community volunteers. We were able to expand our offerings of games and activities as well as all of the usual delicious carnival food. Thank you to everyone for your generous support and helping us to fill the campus with Purim joy, laughter, love, community, and blessings.

We are extremely proud of all that we have accomplished this year and grateful for the support of our CBH community.

Thank you to our wonderful Teachers, Madrichim, and Teen Programs Staff:

Kristi Link-Crosier, Madrichim Coordinator

Adam Ashkenazi, Teen Engagement Coordinator

Ardyth Sokoler, Keshet Teacher

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Rabbi Jeremy Simons, Confirmation Teacher
Rabbi Bess Wohlner, Confirmation Teacher

Lora Barrett, Kitah Alef Teacher
Dee Dee Meckler, Kitah Alef Volunteer Assistant Teacher
Jake Rabin, Kitah Alef Madrich
Karen Levy, Kitah Bet Teacher
Isaac Adelstein, Kitah Bet Madrich
Matt Brenner, Kitah Gimmel Teacher
Yuval Tal, Kitah Gimmel Assistant Teacher
Allison Scher, Kitah Gimmel Madricha
Chani Oppenheim, Kitah Dalet Teacher

Dan Tennenbaum, Songleader
Amanda Pochter, Preschool Teacher
Hannah Leibert, Preschool Madricha
Zephyr Pitesky, Preschool Madrich
Kristi Link-Crosier, Kdg First Grade Teacher
Helena Birbrower, Kdg First Grade Assistant Teacher
Owen Guyer, Kdg First Grade Madrich
Sophia Brenner, Kdg First Grade Madricha
Rivka Suey, Kdg First Grade Madricha
Chani Oppenheim, Second Grade Teacher
Eli Brenner, Second Grade Madrich
Meyer Nitzkin, Second Grade Madrich
Leah Stark, Third Grade Teacher
Lyla Drabkin, Third Grade Madricha
Evie Bader-Natal, Third Grade Madricha
Karen Levy, Fourth Grade Teacher
Noah Leibert, Fourth Grade Madrich
Izzy Pitesky, Fourth Grade Madricha
Meg Cohen, Fifth Grade Teacher
Jake Rabin, Fifth Grade Madrich
Ella Rabin, Fifth Grade Madricha
Jordana Scher, Fifth Grade Madricha
Seth Browner, Sixth Grade Teacher
Natalya Shaffer, Sixth Grade Madricha
Alena Olagundoye, Sixth Grade Madricha
Adam Ashkenazi, Seventh Grade Teacher
Django Nachmanoff, Seventh Grade Madrich
Lily Casner, Seventh Grade Madricha
Karen Goldstein, Bet mitzvah Tutor
Chani Oppenheim, Bet mitzvah Tutor

Thank you to our Education & Youth Committee for their impressive work:

Sam Applebaum, Chair
Maurice Pitesky, Board Liaison
Christoph Gumb
Kristen Gong
Suzanne Nitzkin
Larry Rabin
Amy Shapiro
Naomi Scher
Jessica Tucker-Mohl

Thank you to our amazing Room Parents for supporting teachers and building community:

Amy Nitta
Glenn Ulansey
Hannah Mertens
Jen Gussman
Shirley Miller
Rachel Korzenny
Juliet Siegel
Rebecca Plack
Mike Sapoznikow
TJ Green
Mollye Fryday
Alma Drabkin

Thank you to our fabulous Purim Carnival Committee for another amazing event:

Sam Applebaum, Chair
Mollie D'Agostino
Mark Drabkin
Kristen Gong
TJ Green
Sandy Jones
Miranda Munro
David Moldoff
Suzanne Nitzkin
Naomi Scher
Stephani Shanske
Amy Shapiro
Jessica Tucker-Mohl

Education & Youth Committee (EYC)

Committee Members

Sam Applebaum (Chair), Ardyth Sokoler (Director of Education), Christoph Gumb, Kristen Gong, Suzanne Nitzkin, Larry Rabin, Naomi Scher, Amy Shapiro, Jessica Tucker-Mohl, Maurice Piteski (Board Liaison)

2024–2025 Highlights

Purim Carnival

Our signature event once again brought the community together for a day filled with magic, games, cotton candy, and pure joy. With over 130 wristbands sold and 33 dozen hamantaschen enjoyed, this year's Purim Carnival was a vibrant celebration and a true community-building success.

Special thanks to our wonderful Purim Committee: Sam Applebaum (Purim Committee Chair), Mollie D'Agostino, Mark Drabkin, Kristen Gong, TJ Green, Sandy Jones, Miranda Munro, Suzanne Nitzkin, David Moldoff, Naomi Scher, Amy Shapiro, Stephani Shanske, and Jessica Tucker-Mohl.

Beyond our core committee, the Purim Carnival was supported by a strong group of additional adult and teen volunteers. Their help made the day run smoothly and allowed us to offer a wide range of activities and games. It was a true team effort that reflected the spirit of our community and made the event such a success.

Koffee Kesher (Parent Socials)

Our twice-yearly Sunday morning gatherings were a wonderful success, drawing approximately 30–35 parents each time. These relaxed, low-stress events provided an easy and welcoming way for parents to mingle, make connections, and build relationships while enjoying bagels and coffee. Koffee Kesher continues to be one of our favorite ways to strengthen our CBH family community.

Room Parent Program

This year's Room Parents played an important role in supporting class communities. Room Parents helped coordinate communication, organized occasional events or gatherings, and supported teacher appreciation efforts. Their contributions helped maintain a sense of connection among families throughout the year, even amidst busy schedules.

Bet Mitzvah Family Support

This year, some of our Bet Mitzvah families faced unexpected challenges, making it especially important to ensure that every student and family felt supported and celebrated.

The EYC provided encouragement and resources to help strengthen connections among families and foster a sense of community during a sometimes-difficult time.

Looking ahead, we are working to expand our support system by encouraging Bet Mitzvah families to meet monthly, pair up to assist one another, and maintain open lines of communication with the EYC. By building stronger peer-to-peer networks and offering committee guidance as needed, we aim to create an even more supportive and resilient environment for students and families preparing for this important milestone.

Teacher and Madrichim Appreciation

We worked closely with Room Parents to coordinate contributions that recognized and thanked our incredible teachers and madrichim. Funds were collected and distributed fairly among all staff members to ensure everyone was honored. In addition to class-based efforts, EYC organized an end-of-year gift to celebrate the dedication, enthusiasm, and spirit that our educators bring to CBH's youth programs each week. It was a true community effort to express our gratitude.

Teen Programming (DRTY and Keshet)

We brainstormed new strategies to keep our teens engaged and connected, acknowledging the changing needs and busy schedules of today's youth. Moving forward, we will continue exploring ways to adapt programming to meet them where they are.

Looking Ahead to 2025–2026

- Host another vibrant, community-driven Purim Carnival
- Continue growing and evolving Koffee Keshet and Room Parent initiatives
- Expand B'nai Mitzvah family support efforts
- Strengthen teen engagement through innovative programming
- Foster leadership development and encourage new committee participation
- Keep the EYC spirit of fun, warmth, and inclusiveness alive and thriving

Final Thoughts

The EYC remains a lively, passionate group that brings both heart and humor to everything we do. Our shared commitment to nurturing the next generation — and to each other — ensures that Congregation Bet Haverim remains a place of deep connection, joyful learning, and lasting community.

Social Justice Committee

Alan Hirsch, Chair

Committee Members: Alan Hirsch (Chair), Roy Kaplan (retiring Chair), Walt Sherwood, Marc Schenker, Vera Sandronsky, Michael Hirsch, Nancy Lazarus, Johannes Troost, Steve Jacobs, Dianne Moore, John Katonah, Deborah Katzburg, Cynthia Goldberg (recently stepped down). Betsy Elzufon has been attending regularly as the Board member liaison and actively participates in our meetings.

***“A synagogue without a social justice committee is not a synagogue”
- Rabbi Simons***

2024-2025 Focus Areas

The year began with strategic refocus with the retirement of Roy Kaplan after 6 years of leadership with Davis Hillel. In December, Alan Hirsch became our new chair.

Transition began with developing a new strategy to revitalize our program and recruit new congregants to our committee. After much discussion and culminating in a retreat with RAC* California head Lee Winkelman in October, we decided to switch from just having a switchboard/clearing house role in supporting what our various committee activists brought to meetings, to proactively having one public facing focus at a time to recruit new members. Whatever issue we focus on should not only be national but have an impact in Yolo County as well.

We waited until after the election in November to decide on the issue. Following election-based threats of mass deportation (approximately 5% Yolo County families affected) we decided to focus on immigration/refugee issues instead of homelessness, housing or food insecurity. We also had a natural Yolo ally as one of SJC members was John Katonah, co-chair of YIIN, the Yolo Interfaith Immigration Network.

Our Projects

Immigrants and Refugees

We helped publicize/co-sponsored two immigrant crisis education events at the Methodist Church with the Phoenix Coalition, NorCal Resist and YIIN. In February, we organized an open-to-the-community event with a speaker panel in the social hall that welcomed over 140 people to CBH campus (a high holiday-sized crowd). This event focused on the issue of both Hispanic and Afghan immigrants and refugees. We gave attendees entry points to get involved. We are now partnering with YIIN to publicize, help sell tickets and find silent auction items for YIIN's fundraising dinner on Saturday, June 14. They hope to have 350 people and raise \$25,000 for their support of immigrants, including legal services and DACA applications. You can sign up for this event on [Eventbrite](#).

DIA Interfaith Efforts

Though not an official action of our committee, SJC meeting members Shoshana Zatz, Roy Kaplan, and Alan Hirsch were key in starting up the lay-clergy group DIA, Davis Interfaith Alliance. Rabbi Jeremy hosted the 3rd DIA meeting in March and gave tours of our campus and answered questions about Judaism from non-Jewish interfaith activists.

Affordable Housing

We supported Interfaith Housing Justice Davis, the work of Vera Sandronsky, as the City's General Plan rewrite moves forward. CBH signed an interfaith letter on principles for housing that many other faith organizations also signed.

Open Meetings - Please join us

Social Justice Committee meetings are open to all- even non partners can attend per current board rules. We meet monthly, typically every 3rd Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. To join/ get on our email list for agendas or discussion, please send a request to Alan at DavisLorax.org with Subject: SJC add email— "Agenda-list" (or "Discuss list").

Footnotes: RAC= Religious Action Center of URC aka Jewish reform movement.



Social Justice in California. Stained-glass window at Sherith Israel in SF of Moses bringing down Ten Commandment from El Capitan in Yosemite. (1905)

Sustainability Task Force (STF)

Task Force Members: Mark Berman, Elisabeth Dubin, David Moldoff (Board Liaison), Michael Hirsch, Aaron Nitzkin, Walt Sherwood, Lynn Simon, Johannes Troost (Chair)

Mission

Man-made climate change presents an existential crisis that continues to alter the existing habitats of life on the planet. It leads directly to resource scarcity which affects poor and undeveloped regions first but also don't spare the affluent, Western world of which we are apart. Resource scarcity leads to civil conflict, war and chaos. As Jews, we are commanded to both prevent new and repair the existing damage.

The Sustainability Task Force (STF) develops and improves our ongoing action response to address the climate emergency.

The STF's mandate is to:

- Promote the key elements of our faith that provide moral and spiritual impetus to move us to action for sustainable living in face of Climate Change.
- Develop and plan projects and policies to reduce our CBH Campus carbon footprint and bring them to the Board for review, approval, and implementation.
- Highlight said projects and policies in our educational programs to inspire our congregation by modeling positive action in the face of daunting climate realities.
- Establish benchmarking methods to gauge progress toward these goals.
- Consider ways to inspire Partners to examine their individual behaviors when not on our campus to promote climate restorative practices and a resilient community.

2024-25 Overview

We are grateful for the generosity of CBH congregants. We thank the Finance Committee, Fund Development Committee, and Board of Directors, and acknowledge each STF member for their previous engagement and work with the STF. Together In 2023-24, we secured the resources needed to install our 114 solar panel array on the Social Hall and Sanctuary.

On September 4th, 2024, CBH began solar energy generation.

The STF focused its work for 2024-25 on applying for grants and other opportunities that continue our faith's moral and spiritual responsibility for Tikkun Olam- to heal the earth.

The STF work continued to be enhanced by collaboration, coordination, and guidance from Executive Director Wendy Harworth and Finance Committee member Steve Cohan. We are grateful for their support and work.

We continue to use the CBH campus Energy Audit as our guide to identify and apply for grants and other opportunities to reduce our campus greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs. All successful applications and opportunities must be approved by the Board.

2024-2025 Accomplishments:

Our work included:

- An application to the US Department of Energy for energy efficient upgrades to our CBH campus: lighting, heat pumps for aging gas heating units, and a water heater. Our submission was unsuccessful.
- A successful application to PG&E is currently pending review by the Finance Committee and Board approval for the grant for the full costs of purchasing and installation of two on campus EV charging stations- which we are allowed to restrict to CBH congregants due to security risks.
- A PG&E interest free loan for up to 10 years- for up to \$250,000- to improve energy utilization and reduce costs by replacing or upgrading existing energy inefficient campus items to more efficient ones. We applied for and are in the PG&E funding cue. It is currently under review by the Finance Committee for recommendation to the Board.

Each time we apply for a grant, at least three things happen:

- we create and/or improve our written application which better prepares us for future opportunities
- strengthen our internal application process and workflow
- increase collaboration with other CBH Committees and our collective work together

STF 2025-26 Goals

In collaboration with the CBH religious leadership, the CBH Board, Executive Director, and Committees as appropriate, continue to engage our congregation in the “Why” of our work-Tikkun Olan, and identify and apply for grants and funding opportunities that help us fulfill the STF mission toward a celebration of Shmita year 5789 (2028-2029). This includes:

- Work with our religious leadership to identify, create, calendar and implement environmentally focused messages at appropriate events.
- Significantly improve our ability to sort our trash, recycling, and organics at CBH campus events and activities by:
 - Drafting a policy and expectations to include in our CBH campus rental agreement for trash, recycling, and organics
 - Engaging and training event helpers on implementation of this rental agreement element
- Prepare an October 2025 report for the Congregation on the impact/return of the investment in our solar energy improvements including greenhouse gas reduction and costs.

Congregation Bet Haverim 2024-25 Annual Report

- Reduce operating expenses and heal our world by identifying resources for energy efficient improvements recommended in the CBH campus Energy Audit.
- Increase the impact of the STF by:
 - Creating an E-Tone link for interested congregants to the CBH website for information and resources on energy efficiency and climate impact action in our community.
 - Engaging five additional members of the congregation as members of the STF
 - Designing and articulating our work to include opportunities that:
 - Excite and engage congregants with the knowledge and skills the STF needs for project specific, task focused, time limited, volunteer opportunities that help our congregation create a resilient and sustainable community (you do not have to be on the Task Force for this, unless of course, you want to!).

Israel Peace Alternatives (IPA)

Israel Peace Alternatives, Chair Sarah Pattison

2024-2025 Activities

- May 7, 2025, Israel Listening Session with Rabbi Susan Leider, in partnership with Rabbi Simons and the CBH Board of Directors. IPA suggested this program, recruited five rabbis to facilitate small group discussions, publicized the event, and provided volunteers for greeting and cleanup. Approximately 50 people attended.
- April 25, 2025, co-sponsored Israel Shabbat with Israel Haverim. Jennifer Kaufman, Immediate Past Chair of the Union for Reform Judaism, spoke about the World Zionist Congress election.
- April 5, 2025, co-sponsored Havdalah for Vote Reform with Israel Haverim, in support of the World Zionist Congress election. Publicized election information in the E-Tone newsletter and printed ballots in the Sanctuary lobby.
- February 26, 2025, co-sponsored screening of "The Checkpoint Women" with J Street, streaming as part of the Sacramento Jewish Film Festival. Discussion led by Shimrit Braun Kamin, J Street Northwest Regional Director. This event was held at the home of Sarah and Tom Pattison.
- January 24, 2025, invited Rabbi Susan Leider to give a drash at Shabbat services, and hosted the Oneg. She spoke about the Israel Listening Program which facilitates small group discussion among people with different views.
- November 13, 2024, IPA annual meeting with special guest Executive Director Wendy Haworth.

Countering Antisemitism Committee (CAS)

Countering Antisemitism Task Force members: David Siegel, Nancy Lazarus, Carla Gordon Levin, Stanley Young, Janet Meizel, and Harriet Gadisman (Chair)

The CBH Countering Antisemitism Committee hosted four events at CBH this year. The first was on Tisha B'Av, where we read selections from Lamentations and shared experiences about the difficult year that passed. The second was in November, where we presented slides of Antisemitism and Antizionism in Davis and at UC Davis. Then, in December, we presented statistics about Generational Antisemitism and Social Media. In January, our program was "Countering Antisemitism in View of Different Perspectives on Israel," with a panel discussion and a crowd of about 120.

The Countering Antisemitism Committee has attended several City of Davis **Human Relations Commission** meetings and several Davis City Council Meetings. We have added our voices to those who are alarmed by Hate Crimes and aggression against Jewish and Israeli people, especially at UC Davis. There continue to be angry voices condemning Zionists, harassment, threats, and doxxing. There has also been physical abuse at anti-Zionist rallies against those identified as "Jewish people." We stand with those in our Jewish community whose children have been the victims of harassment at their schools in the Davis School District. We are alarmed at the proposed actions the HRC would like to take using the MAPA Report to silence the Jewish and Zionist community. Specifically, aspects of the report seem more focused on portraying the Jewish community and Zionists as threatening, as opposed to uplifting the MAPA community. Zionism is the movement for the self-determination and statehood for the Jewish people in our ancestral homeland.

Our CBH Countering Antisemitism Committee worked on planning and producing the Jewish American Heritage Festival held on May 29th and hosted a booth of biographies of famous Jewish American immigrants. The theme for the event is "Immigration, Resilience, and Solidarity: the Jewish American Experience."

The Countering Antisemitism Committee has also been active in tracking and monitoring Assembly Bill **AB 715: A Statewide Strategy to Confront Antisemitism in K-12 Education**. Led by Assembly members Zbur and Addis – and joined by the Chairs of the Jewish, Black, Latino, and AAPI Caucuses – AB 715 was passed unanimously on May 14 to control antisemitic curriculum and propaganda across all K-12 classrooms in California, not just within ethnic studies. The fight against hate in education is too important to be sidelined by politics or opposition. **AB 715 lays a bold framework to protect Jewish students and promote safer schools for all students.** Key provisions of AB 715 include:

- Strengthening anti-discrimination protections based on religion and nationality
- Ensuring instruction, curriculum, textbooks, and materials are free from antisemitism and discrimination
- Expanding the Uniform Complaint Process (UCP) to include board members and contractors, and with stronger timelines for response
- Increasing accountability for school districts

- Establishing a State Antisemitism Coordinator to lead statewide efforts

“These changes aim to do more than stop harmful content. They will help school communities respond effectively to hate, build trust, and ensure that every student feels safe and supported – including Jewish students. With broad protections, deep accountability, and diverse support, we are committed to ensuring that this bill reflects the needs of our community and effectively responds to the rising antisemitism we’ve seen at schools across California.”

JCRC Sacramento Federation Jewish Community Relations Commission

Harriet Gadisman, Board Liaison

The Sacramento Jewish Federation Jewish Community Relations Commission (JCRC) is a coalition of synagogues and Jewish communities throughout the Sacramento Region. As our CBH representative, Harriet reached out to both the Davis City Council and Yolo County Supervisors to request acknowledgement of Jewish American Heritage Month. The Davis City Council acknowledged Jewish American Heritage Month at their meeting on May 13th. The Yolo County Supervisors will acknowledge Jewish American Heritage Month at their May 20th meeting. As a member of the JCRC Board, Harriet is also participating in the **Student-to-Student Anti-Bias** presentations at regional high schools, where Jewish teens present to their peers about Jewish culture, holidays, traditions, and prejudice. The first Student-to-Student presentation in Davis was held on May 1st at King High School.

Israel Haverim

Harriet Gadisman and Maya Geva-Sagiv, co-chairs

Israel Haverim organized an Oneg Shabbat after our **Bet Haverim Israel Independence Shabbat** on April 25th. It was a delightful evening, complete with a dessert potluck, balloons, lots of Israeli folk dancing, and plenty of great energy ! Thank you to all of the CBH Board members who attended.

Israel Haverim also sponsored the **“Israeli Science and Wine Night”** on Sunday, April 27th. This event was a wonderful success, with over 100 people in attendance. There were delicious snacks and fascinating science presentations. Four Israeli scientists spoke about their research in quick ten-minute speeches, with a Q and A session after each one. Participants were enthusiastic and expressed a clear desire to repeat this event again soon. We applied for another event in the Fall of 2025.

Fund Development Committee

Committee members: Bonnie Berman (Chair), Marjory Kaplan, Michael Bobell

This is the 4th year of the Fund Development committee. Our goals are to support the financial objectives of our congregation and its Board, prepare an annual plan for soliciting funds, and offer assistance in raising funds along with the Board. We develop policies and procedures to support our efforts, practice good stewardship of funds we receive and appropriately thank the donors who gave them.

Coming off a successful Cheers to 20 Years! gala and a successful pledge drive, we moved more softly in our ask to partnership. We made a gentle End of the Year request for donations which generated approximately \$13,000.

New this spring, instead of a gala, we are trying something different. Look for a special event before our Annual Meeting on June 8th called an **Ice Cream Social Fun Raiser**. This event is both a community builder and fundraiser. We're asking partners to create and host a fun experience and entice people to sign up and "buy it now". We hope to get up to 30 experiences from hiking trips to high teas, lessons in anything from photography to crochet to cooking. We want broad participation, so we hope to have experiences for kids too like a visit to a farm, scavenger hunt, etc. All proceeds from the sign-ups will go to help make CBH more financially secure. We hope to raise \$10,000.

We welcome new members with experience in sales, marketing, or fund development, or with an eagerness to engage with our membership on a meaningful level.

Partnership Committee

Committee members: Eliana Kiamowitz (Co-Chair), Bonnie Berman (Co-Chair), Danielle Newberry, Diann Kramer, Carla Levin, Liz Green-Davis

The Partnership Committee practices “Audacious Hospitality” in our support of current partners and outreach to all who wish to strengthen connections with and amongst our Jewish community. [Audacious Hospitality](#) is the Reform Jewish Movement’s approach to creating a sense of belonging with a focused effort on Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

This year we continued our focus on creating cross-generational connection opportunities for our partners. Our four annual **Partnerships Signature Events** began with our **Community Potluck Picnic and Solar Dedication** which drew a large crowd of all ages. We followed this with a **New Partner Shabbat dinner** in the fall, welcoming newcomers with a sit-down meal sponsored by our community. The event had a terrific turnout and people stayed long after the meal to socialize. During the winter we held our annual **Hanukkah Hike** around the Davis Greenbelt with trivia questions (and prizes) and stops at playgrounds along the way. This is a multigenerational event open to members and non-members. In April we supported the **Community Seder**. We hope you will spread the word about these quarterly events and join us in connecting with others in our community this coming year.

Our committee is dedicated to offering easy opportunities for all our partners to connect with others outside of our religious and spiritual programming. As our Partnership membership increases, we invite anyone interested in building community to join us. If you have any questions about the Partnership Committee, please contact Eliana (eliana.kaimowitz@gmail.com,) or Bonnie (bonnieberman@yahoo.com).

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Cynthia Goldberg, Chair

Committee Members in 2024-2025: Allison Goldsmith, Bob Smith, Carmia Feldman, Gil Mohtes-Chan, Ilana Golin, Laurie Stillman, Lori Raineri, Mitch Singer

DEI at CBH continues to focus on *internal* improvements in our own practices regarding Jews of Color, Jews with disabilities, LGBTQIA Jews, and Jews in Interfaith Families within our own community. We have addressed system issues, values and policy issues, as well as trying to identify gaps we can help to bridge.

ACTIVITIES in 2024-2025

LARGE PRINT PRAYER BOOK Inventory for Shabbat, High Holidays, and Shiva home services. This includes physical books and a private PDF that matches our Saturday morning prayer books which are out of print altogether. For Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur 2024 our small set of large print prayer books for both services were available and well used.

At the suggestion of staff, **FOOD FLAGS** – small paper flags on toothpicks- and a chart about common food allergens has been put in the Social Hall kitchen. People bringing food for Oneg Shabbats and other events can now easily label ingredients such as wheat, eggs, nuts, etc. so that eaters can safely enjoy food items without wondering if it will cause a problem for them.

We created an **EVENTS CHECKLIST** for use by all planners for CBH hosted events to help provide consistency in areas often overlooked such as options for low vision, mobility, or hearing participants as well as various sensory accommodations.

Rabbi Simons led a **LEARNER'S SHABBAT** in March 2025. This was co-planned with DEI and DEI created a '**Learners' Shabbat Glossary**' to help explain the various key parts of the service. This built on our first Learners Shabbat in November 2023. These were Friday night services where our friends and family, neighbors and coworkers who are Jewish-curious are invited to our service. The Rabbi explained the "what" and "why" of the service as it progressed. These were well attended services enjoyed by community members with no prior knowledge of Jewish life as well as CBH non-Jewish/ Jew-ish/ Jewish-adjacent family members. We have had a follow up request for a "Learners' Tour" of the sanctuary.

We sought input from CBH partners with two **questions in the e-tone (not a survey!)** asking for input **about barriers to participation** in CBH events. With limited responses, we delved into the problem of transportation, especially in the evening. We imagined a "**Mitzvah Wheels**" program of folks in need requesting rides and partners attending the event offering rides, coordinated by a volunteer much as the CBH Mitzvah Meals project

does. This is in the infancy stage while we recruit a voluntary coordinator. Additionally, we learned of an interest in programs for neurodiverse adults over 25 for social interactions within a Jewish context. We are exploring this further.

In 2025-2026, DEI will continue to look at ways to improve engagement with the four underrepresented groups of partners.

We are in the early stages of looking at how **to improve adaptive access to CBH events** and will continue to explore this in the coming year. We will consider captioning, aural/Loop enhancements for hearing aid wearers, large print text as well as low-cost options for improving engagement with folks for whom vision and hearing make services and other CBH events challenging.

DEI will work on putting our **Mitzvah Wheels** project into action...starting with identifying one or two coordinators.

DEI will begin to explore interest in CBH families in **social and religious activities targeting adults with disabilities**, at the request of one partner family. We are planning a 'listening session' to understand this topic better.

DEI will co-host more activities focusing on diversity and engagement such as **another Learners Shabbat** (or similar event such as a sanctuary and holy objects tour).

We are working on ways to **engage with other CBH committees**.

We will continue to **maintain the supply of Food Flags and Pronoun Pins**. We have also recently replaced one missing "lower" Mezuzah (changing to a more secure way of attachment to the doorpost).

Security Committee

Committee Members: Carol Darwish (Chair), Michael Bobel, Elisabeth Dubin, Jaime Ordonez, Joanna Stone, Shannah Whithaus, Wendy Haworth, Board Liaisons- Jaime Ordonez and Rob Egel

2024-2025

The Security Committee members spent the summer in coordination with Steve Cohan and Wendy to complete the Anderson Blvd fencing and gate which was paid for by grant funds from the federal government. A short-term camera/doorbell system was installed as this was not included with installation project. Management and administration of grant FY2022 was completed by Maggie Memmott of Memmott Consulting.

The Committee advised on an implementation proposal for creating and distributing Gate entry codes, a short-term solution for the video/buzzer device for gate entry.

The committee worked in coordination with Wendy to obtain bids, select, and install boulders and bollards on the campus to decrease threats of vehicle ramming attacks. Funding to support this project was secured via the FY2022 Grant. The remaining funds were redistributed to pay for contract security. The total grant funds awarded was \$150,000.

Wendy has coordinated a security evaluation of the campus with representatives from the Jewish Federation /Bay Area JCF and Assessment from Molly Jozer.

The campus emergency supply for the sanctuary and social hall was updated to include enough tourniquets for 10% of the members.

Investigation and inquiry into Sanctuary Egress, benches, and a plan to identify seating for members requiring assistance ambulating with walkers/wheelchairs.

The committee submitted and was awarded \$150,000 for FY2024 Security Grant that will include projects for an updated camera security system, perimeter redwood fencing, and contract security.

Plans for the upcoming year include installation of air horns to alert people on campus in case of an emergency, signage on the outside of the synagogue, greeting guests at the entry gate, and providing vests and walkie-talkies for the security team.